

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A soft capsule formulation comprising:

an oily solution of an active vitamin D₃; and
a soft capsule shell which contains titanium oxide and yellow iron oxide and/or red iron oxide and encapsulates said oily solution of an active vitamin D₃.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A soft capsule formulation comprising:

an oily solution of an active vitamin D₃; and
a soft capsule shell which contains titanium oxide and caramel and encapsulates said oily solution of active vitamin D₃.

Claim 3 (Canceled):

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The soft capsule formulation of claim 1 wherein said oily solution comprises at least one base material selected from the group consisting of fatty acid glycerides, propylene glycol fatty acid diesters, triacetin, polyethylene glycols and vegetable oils.

Claim 5 (Original): The soft capsule formulation of Claim 4 wherein the base of the oily solution comprises a fatty acid glyceride.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The soft capsule formulation of claim 1 wherein the active vitamin D₃ is selected from 1 α -hydroxyvitamin D₃, 24-hydroxyvitamin D₃, 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃, 1 α ,24-dihydroxyvitamin D₃, 1 α ,25-dihydroxyvitamin D₃, 1 α ,24,25-trihydroxyvitamin D₃, 22-oxa-1 α ,25-dihydroxyvitamin D₃ and 2 β -(3-hydroxypropyloxy)-1 α ,25-dihydroxyvitamin D₃

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The soft capsule formulation of claim 2 wherein said oily solution comprises at least one base material selected from the group consisting of fatty acid glycerides, propylene glycol fatty acid diesters, triacetin, polyethylene glycols and vegetable oils.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The soft capsule formulation of claim 7 wherein the base material for the oily solution comprises a fatty acid glyceride.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The soft capsule formulation of claim 2 wherein the active vitamin D₃ is selected from 1 α -hydroxyvitamin D₃, 24-hydroxyvitamin D₃, 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃, 1 α ,24-dihydroxyvitamin D₃, 1 α ,25-dihydroxyvitamin D₃, 1 α ,24,25-trihydroxyvitamin D₃, 22-oxa-

1 α ,25-dihydroxyvitamin D₃ and 2 β -(3-hydroxypropyloxy)-1 α ,25-dihydroxyvitamin D₃.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A soft capsule formulation comprising:

an oily solution of an active vitamin D₃; and

a soft capsule shell which contains a white pigment and yellow iron oxide and/or red iron oxide and encapsulates said oily solution of an active vitamin D₃,

wherein said white pigment and said iron oxide within said soft capsule shell constitute a homogeneous mixture.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The soft capsule formulation of claim 10 wherein said soft capsule shell further includes caramel.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The capsule formulation of claim 10 or 11 wherein the white pigment is titanium oxide.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The soft capsule formulation of claim 10 wherein said oily solution comprises at least one base material selected from the group consisting of fatty acid glycerides, propylene glycol fatty acid diesters, triacetin, polyethylene glycols and vegetable oils.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The soft capsule formulation of claim 13 wherein the base for the oily solution comprises a fatty acid glyceride.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The soft capsule formulation of claim 10 wherein the active vitamin D₃ is selected from 1 α -hydroxyvitamin D₃, 24-hydroxyvitamin D₃, 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃, 1 α ,24-dihydroxyvitamin D₃, 1 α ,25-dihydroxyvitamin D₃, 1 α ,24,25-trihydroxyvitamin D₃, 22-oxa-1 α ,25-dihydroxyvitamin D₃ and 2 β -(3-hydroxypropyloxy)-1 α ,25-dihydroxyvitamin D₃.

Claim 16 (New): In a soft capsule formulation comprising an oily solution of an active vitamin D₃ and a soft capsule shell, the improvement comprising including the soft capsule shell titanium oxide and yellow iron oxide and/or red iron oxide.

Claim 17 (New): In a soft capsule formulation comprising an oily solution of an active vitamin D₃ and a soft capsule shell, the improvement comprising including in the soft capsule shell titanium oxide and caramel.